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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/781,642 | 02/12/2001 | Takashi Sugitou | 55587(1004) | 8394 |

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EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,642

Applicant(s)

SUGITOU ET AL.

Examiner

King Y. Poon

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beaudet (US 5,511,150).

Regarding claim 1: Beaudet teaches a multifunctional printing system (column 3, line 1) wherein image information captured through an image information pickup means (scanner, column 3, lines 10-15) can be printed as multiple sets of copies (column 1, lines 30-35) by a printing means (marking means, column 3, lines 20-25) and which is configured so that the printing operation can be stopped only at intervals from one set of copies to the next or every certain number of printouts, comprising: a computing means (control logics/programs of the copier, column 7, lines 9-12, column 10, lines 6) for calculating the time at which an interrupt can be made next (fig. 4I), based on the designated number of print sets (column 9, lines 7-8, column 10, lines 1-5, column 1, lines 30-35), the current state of printing (the copier disable or not, column 6, lines 60-

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65), the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible (column 10, line 3); and a display means (fig. 4I) for displaying the permissible interrupt time calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 2: Beaudet teaches a multifunctional printing system (column 3, line 1) wherein image information captured through an image information pickup means (scanner, column 3, lines 10-15) can be printed as multiple sets of copies (column 1, lines 30-35) by a printing means (marking means, column 3, lines 20-25) and which is configured so that the printing operation can be stopped only at intervals from one set of copies to the next or every certain number of printouts and so that the printing operation needs to be stopped in order to allow an interrupt job (column 9, lines 9-20), comprising: a computing means (control logics/programs of the copier, column 7, lines 9-12, column 10, lines 6) for calculating the permissible termination time (e.g., fig. 4I, column 10, lines 1-5) which allows for an interrupt job, based on the designated number of print sets (column 9, lines 7-8, column 10, lines 1-5, column 1, lines 30-35), the current state of printing (the copier disable or not, column 6, lines 60-65), the information as to whether an interrupt is permissible (column 10, line 3); and a display means (fig. 4I) for displaying the permissible termination time calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 3: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means has the function of calculating the finish time (fig. 4F1, fig. 4F2) of the requested interrupt job instead of calculating the permissible interrupt time or permissible termination time, and the display means has the function of displaying the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 4: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means has the function of calculating the finish time (fig. 4F1, fig. 4F2) of the requested interrupt job instead of calculating the permissible interrupt time or permissible termination time, and the display means has the function of displaying the finish time of the interrupt job calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 5: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means, instead of having the function of calculating the permissible interrupt time, the permissible termination time or the finish time of the interrupt job, has the function of calculating the time length corresponding to any of these (the interrupt time of e.g., 103, secs shown in fig. 4I is a time length), and the display means has the function of displaying the time length calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 6: Beaudet teaches wherein the computing means, instead of having the function of calculating the permissible interrupt time, the permissible termination time or the finish time of the interrupt job, has the function of calculating the time length corresponding to any of these (the interrupt time of e.g., 103, secs shown in fig. 4I is a time length), and the display means has the function of displaying the time length calculated by the computing means.

Regarding claim 7: Beaudet teaches wherein the display means displays the time or time length in response to the operation of a dedicated key which allows for input of a display request (column 9, lines 4-10, fig. 4D, interrupt job is a dedicated key which allows the display of fig. 4I).

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Regarding claim 8: Beaudet teaches wherein the display means displays the time or time length when the key for requesting an interrupt is operated (column 9, lines 4-10, fig. 4D, interrupt job is a dedicated key which allows the display of fig. 4I).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaudet et al. as applied to claims 1-6 above, and further in view of Brown et al (US 5,327,487).

Regarding claim 9: Beaudet does not teach a voice generating means for informing the time or the time length via voice is provided instead of the display means.

Brown, in the same area of transmitting message to a user in a copier environment teaches message can be conveyed to a user by display and voice message (column 3, lines 1-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet's message conveying method to include: a voice generating means for informing the time or the time length via voice is provided instead of the display means.

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It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Beaudet by the teaching of Brown to have allowed blind person having the privilege of using Beaudet's copier machine.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892.

8/17/04

King Y. Poon